



26 September 2005



SAFETY ALERT **NCO Killed in Motorcycle Crash**

1. Last Saturday evening yet another USAREUR Soldier—a sergeant first class—was killed in a tragic motorcycle crash. While riding on a secondary, two-lane road near his home, he lost control of his bike on a curve and hit a tree. The Soldier, who was not wearing a helmet or any other prescribed protective riding equipment, suffered massive head injuries and later died. He was 33 years old.
2. The Soldier leaves behind a wife and several children. He also leaves a key USAREUR organization without a critical NCO. This traumatic loss of life is as senseless as it is frustrating. I wonder what was he thinking? Where was his safety net? Where were his battle buddies?
3. This Soldier is the second USAREUR NCO to die in a motorcycle crash on local roads this month. Across the Army, Taps has been played 14 times since Memorial Day because of motorcycle fatalities. Most of the fatalities were leaders and mentors: one captain, two sergeants first class, five staff sergeants, and two sergeants. Only four were lower-ranking Soldiers. Their average age was 38. This is not a young Soldier problem! It is a problem with those we charge with leadership.
4. These statistics tell us that we are not effectively targeting the right at-risk group of motorcycle operators. To prevent motorcycle accidents, we need to extend our risk-management efforts to older, more senior Soldiers and NCO leaders—those who are supposed to be mentoring and setting the example for younger Soldiers. Commanders and our most senior NCOs should closely examine this older group of motorcycle operators and provide the same degree of mentorship and *Under the Oak Tree* counseling as we do for younger Soldiers. In addition to mentoring and counseling, commanders should also examine other measures to mitigate the risk of motorcycle crashes in their command.
5. I urge every Soldier, civilian, and family member to take notice. This is a problem we can solve, but the solution requires each of us to do our part. Care about the person next to you as if his or her life depended on it. Together we can continue our great tradition of accomplishing with excellence Any Mission, Anywhere.

B. B. BELL
General, US Army
Commanding

ANY MISSION, ANYWHERE!

**B
E
L
L

S
E
N
D
S**

#

37-05